

SHELBY COUNTY OFFICE OF PREPAREDNESS ENEWSLETTER



Prevent



Protect



Respond



Recover

November 2013 Issue

Happy (Safe) Thanksgiving!



Fall is here! Beautiful foliage, cooler temperatures, and family get-togethers! We look forward to gathering 'round a fireplace roasting marshmallows, warming to an outdoor chiminea, or deep-frying a turkey! However, the United States Fire Administration reports an increase in residential fires this time of year, particularly Thanksgiving Day, from noon to 4:00 p.m. The Shelby County Office of Preparedness recommends that you review with your family these safety tips so your holiday is a safe one!

Indoors:

- Have a smoke alarm on every level of the house (preferably near sleeping areas).
- Have an ABC fire extinguisher on every floor of the house as well as the garage and auto.
- Never leave a stove unattended when cooking.
- Create a "child-free, pet free" zone around the stove (a 3-foot area).
- Keep food packaging away from heat sources, it can catch fire.
- When heating cooking oil, watch it very closely, as it will ignite quickly.
- Wear appropriate clothing when cooking. Loose sleeves can easily catch fire near the stove.
- Have a lid ready for each pan or pot in order to smother out an unexpected fire.
- Never use water to extinguish a grease fire. Use an ABC fire extinguisher to extinguish the blaze.
- Please call 911 if you have a home fire – even if you think you have put out the fire yourself.

Outdoors:

- Turkey fryers or chimineas are to be used outdoors, away from buildings.
- Use turkey fryers and chimineas only on a flat surface. Never leave either of them unattended.
- Use well-insulated pot holders or oven mitts when using a turkey fryer.

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness, under the direction of Bob Nations, Jr., wishes you and your family a warm and safe Thanksgiving holiday!

Emergency Outdoor Water Shut Off



In an emergency, such as a residential broken water pipe, it may be necessary to know how to quickly turn off the water to your home at the main water valve on the street. To do this, you must first remove the “manhole” meter cover. Depending on which type of iron cover you have, a flathead screwdriver may work. For other covers, a special key is required. Find out how your cover can be removed before the emergency.



It is best to take a flashlight with you to ensure you can see into the area where the water meter is located below ground. If you have not opened the water meter, it may be necessary to clean away debris such as dirt or sand in order to see the water meter clearly.

A long “T-wrench” or “water meter key” can be used to reach down to the meter and turn the water to the off position. Do this by placing the tee handle on the valve and turning it clockwise until both “loops” are together. At this point, the water to your home has been turned off. If the valve will not turn and is locked up, call your utility company for assistance at once.

Be sure to keep your T-wrench available in case of a water emergency. One can be purchased at hardware stores for about \$10.00 each.

Do 1 Thing: Stash Some Cash!



Do1thing, a website dedicated to getting citizens ready for disasters, suggests simple, systematic ways, to become “disaster resilient!” November’s helpful hint for getting prepared is:

“Stash some cash” in case the ATMs and credit card machines are not usable in a disaster. Cash may be the only acceptable means to make a purchase for a period of time. How much should you keep on hand? Experts suggest having a minimum of at least \$150 cash put away for an emergency. It is easy to do! Just take \$1 a week and place it in an envelope in your “go kit.” Soon you will have a stash of cash for that emergency. Visit www.do1thing.com for more helpful information to prepare for disasters!

National Preparedness Community



Join FEMA’s **National Preparedness Community** today! This is a free information service for those interested in preparedness. You can sign up for emails and opt out at any time. You will be able to obtain information on the latest preparedness resources, join on-line preparedness discussion groups, learn best practices from around the county, and connect with community members across the country. To sign up, go to: www.community.fema.gov. Join today!

Pet Evacuation “Go Bag”



When disaster strikes and the event demands that you evacuate the area, is your pet ready to make the trip?

A pet “evac” plan and go bag are essential to make it a smooth exit.

Before the event, be sure to visit a vet and have your pet “micro chipped.” This quick and inexpensive procedure may help locate your pet if you get separated during a disaster.

Find out which vet offices also board animals 24 hours a day and which hotels in the surrounding area are “pet friendly.” Keep this information with you at all times.

Next, make a “go bag” for your beloved pet. Be sure to include:

- Pet first-aid kit and guide book
- 7 days-worth of canned (pop-top) or dry food
- Disposable litter trays
- Wet wipes
- Paper towels
- Liquid dish soap and disinfectant
- Disposable garbage bags and twist ties
- Pet feeding dishes
- Harness or leash (harnesses are recommended for safety and security)
- Photocopies (medical records, photos) inside a waterproof container
- 2-week supply of any medicine or vitamins your pet requires
- Bottled water, at least 7 days' worth for each person and pet
- A traveling bag, crate or sturdy carrier, ideally one for each pet
- Flashlight and batteries
- Blanket (for scooping up a fearful pet)
- Recent photos of your pets (in case you are separated and need to make "Lost" posters)
- For cats: Pillowcase or EvackSack, toys, scoopable litter
- For dogs: Long leash and yard stake, favorite toys, and chew toys

HazMat Awareness Training



Photo Caption: Danny Daniels, TEMA Instructor, above, during the Hazardous Materials Awareness Training at the EOC

On Wednesday, October 16, 2013, emergency, law enforcement, and health professionals, as well as Tennessee Department of Transportation officers from Shelby County and surrounding counties, gathered at the Emergency Operations Center at 1075 Mullins Station for “Hazardous Materials Awareness Training.” The informative course was taught by Danny Daniels, from the Tennessee Emergency Management Agency.

Free Flu Shots

The Shelby County Health Department is offering free flu shots Saturday, November 16, 2013, from 10:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at Christ Church, 5955 Yale Road, Bartlett, TN 38134. Shots are free for everyone over 6 months of age. High dose (for those 65 and over) is also available in limited quantities. For more information, contact Matt McDaniel at 901.222.8205. To request a flu information packet, email SCHDRresponse@shelbycountyttn.gov. Medicare, Medicaid and TennCare recipients must bring their insurance cards.

Preparedness Outreach

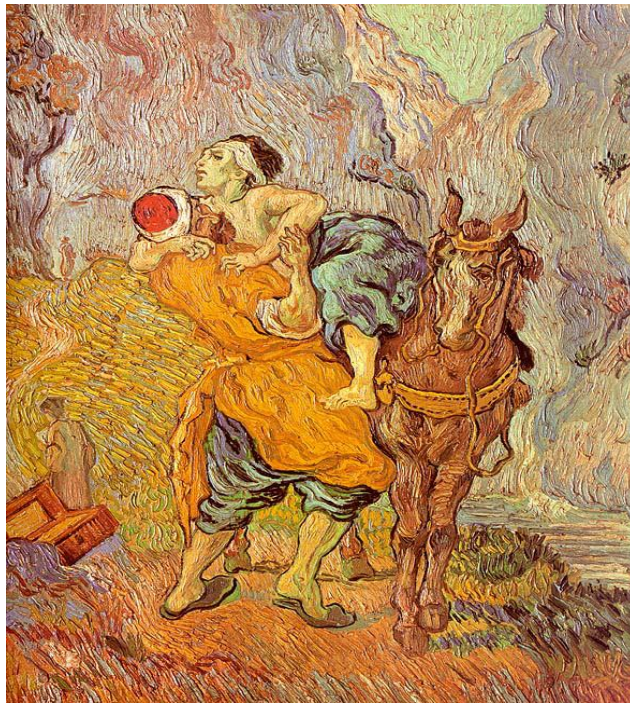
The Shelby County Office of Preparedness Reserves visited with citizens during the month of October at the annual Memphis Police Department’s Citizens Academy. Precincts visited included the Ridgeway Station, The Mt. Moriah Station, Applying Farms Station, Crump Station, and the Tillman Station. Citizens were given an overview of the function of the Office of Preparedness and reminded about threats and hazards in our county. Citizens were informed about the five easy steps citizens should follow to become prepared for disasters. All were given a variety of colorful FEMA brochures, the LEPC Shelter-in-Place brochures, a FEMA Hazard Hunt map, a Citizen Corps bag, cup, and pencil, and a large plastic HELP / OK sign for their homes. Other topics in this 9-week MPD Citizen’s Academy program include presentations from Crime Stoppers, the FBI, the Organized Crime Unit, Blue Crush, Criminal Law, Domestic Violence, Property and Evidence, GIB / Auto Theft, and the Gang Unit.

Attention Hams! Join the SCOOPEr NET!



The Shelby County Office of Preparedness invites all licensed amateur “ham” radio operators to check in to the ham radio net weekly at 6:00 p.m., Mondays, on the SCOOPErNET (Shelby County Office of Preparedness Emergency Ham Radio Net). Dial your radio to: 147.090 107.2 (VHF) and check in!

Good Samaritan Law



"The Good Samaritan" by Vincent Van Gogh

The Tennessee Good Samaritan Law protects citizens from legal liability in the event of an emergency. The law, Tennessee Code Annotated **63-6-218(a)**, states that a “good Samaritan who tries to help will not be held responsible for any wrongdoing unless they are grossly negligent. This includes volunteer and licensed health care workers.” This law is in place to protect citizens who stop to provide emergency rescue or first aid from liability providing they meet these conditions:

- The caregiver must act in “good faith.” Their intention is to provide aid to a person in distress without any motive other than saving a life or keeping them from bodily harm.
- The care given is done on a volunteer basis.
- The situation must be life-threatening and the care given must be necessary to treat them.
- The citizen giving aid must not commit gross negligence (that is, deliberately act in a way that causes further harm).

To read the law in its entirety, go to: <http://www.lexisnexis.com/hottopics/tncode>.

Find the Safe Spots



Disasters can strike without warning. Where ever you happen to be, if you are at home, at work, or a community center, be ready to find the “safest spot” for each type of disaster. Always know where the safe spots for these disasters are:

- **Earthquake:** Move away from windows, glass, and breakable or loose objects. Watch out for falling, flying, and sliding objects. Practice the “**Drop, Cover and Hold On**” maneuver by sliding under a sturdy table – and hold on until the shaking stops! If you can’t move to a safer area, sit down where you are and protect your head and body with your arms, pillows, blankets, books, or any nearby object.
- **Flood:** In a flood, move to the highest point in your home. If flood waters are rising and you can’t evacuate, be sure to have flotation vests.
- **Hurricane:** In a hurricane, go to the center of the house, preferably to a small room opposite the direction from which the wind is blowing. Stay away from windows.
- **Tornado:** Go indoors! Move to a basement, if there is one. If not, go to a small room in the center of the house, on the ground floor. Or duck under the stairs or a heavy table. Use a pillow or blanket or your arms to protect yourself from wind-born debris. Wear a helmet!

Atlantic Hurricane Season Ends



Photo Caption: Super Storm Sandy, one year ago

The National Weather Service’s National Hurricane Center reports that there are no “tropical cyclones” churning at this time. November 30 marks the end of the Atlantic Hurricane Season for 2013. Shelby County has not sheltered any citizens from the Gulf Coast so far this year due to hurricanes.

Preparedness Volunteer Opps:



*"Everybody can be great, because anybody can serve...
You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love."
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.*

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness is offering citizens two unique opportunities to serve their community.

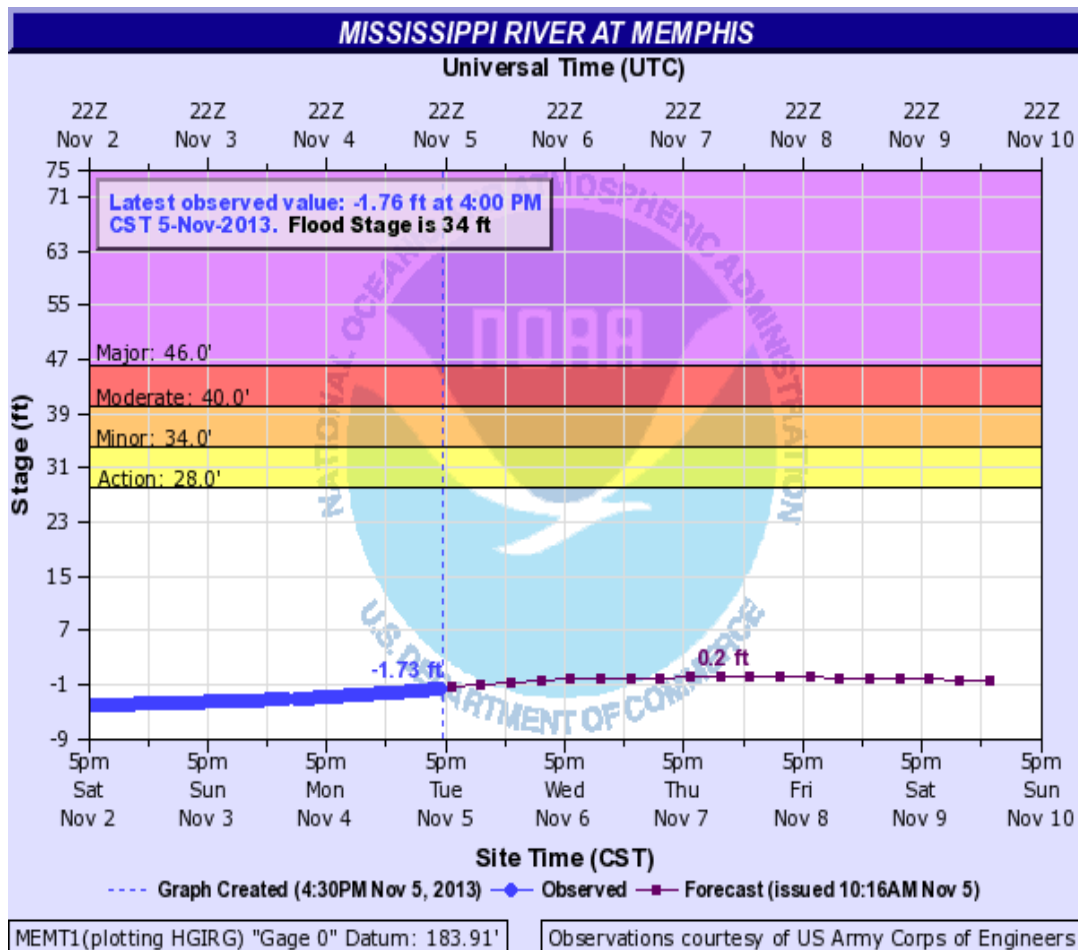
The agency is taking applications from citizens, 18 years or older, who are interested becoming a volunteer for the Shelby Cares or the Reserve Program.

- **Shelby Cares Reserves:** Under the leadership of Terry Donald, Coordinator, after training, these volunteer reserves may be called in to assist the agency during sheltering operations within Shelby County. Shelby Cares Reserves may be asked to help set up a shelter, make photo ID cards, assist with feeding and clean up at a shelter. Those interested, please email terry.donald@shelbycountyttn.gov.
- **Reserve Program:** Lead by Eugene Jones, Coordinator, the Office of Preparedness Reserves, volunteer a minimum of four hours monthly. They serve by teaching the Community Emergency Response Team (CERT) classes and giving disaster preparedness presentations throughout the county to community groups, schools, churches and civic organization. They also operate a weekly ham radio net. As needed, they assist the staff during Emergency Operation Center activations. A monthly meeting and training are also required for this program. Those interested, please email Eugene.jones@shelbycountyttn.gov

To apply for either of these volunteer Reserve programs, please email the coordinator mentioned above and an application will be emailed to you shortly. Once the completed application has been received back at the agency, a background check will be completed by the Shelby County Sheriff's Office, and the applicant will be called in for an interview. A six month probation period of required.

Volunteer today and "be great!"

Mississippi Remains Low



According to the National Weather Service's Advance Hydrologic Prediction Service, with a total of 327 gauges monitoring the Mississippi River, there are no gauges registering flood stage at this time. The Mississippi River at Memphis continues to stay in the low range at 0.2 feet as of November 6, 2013. For more information, please visit: www.weather.gov.

Preparedness Training Opportunities:

Technician Amateur (Ham) Radio Class: Mondays, November 4, 11, 18, 25, December 2 and 9, 2013, 6:15 p.m. – 9:30 p.m. The Delta Amateur Radio Club is offering entry-level ham radio Technician license class at EMHC ambulance company's offices on Appling Farms Parkway. Free. The FCC exam is offered on the 5th class. The ARRL Ham Radio License Manual Second Edition is \$29.95. The ARRL FCC exam is \$15. **Pre-registration is required.** Email name, email address and cellphone number to wa4ovo@arrl.net or to Joe Lowenthal at 628-4318.

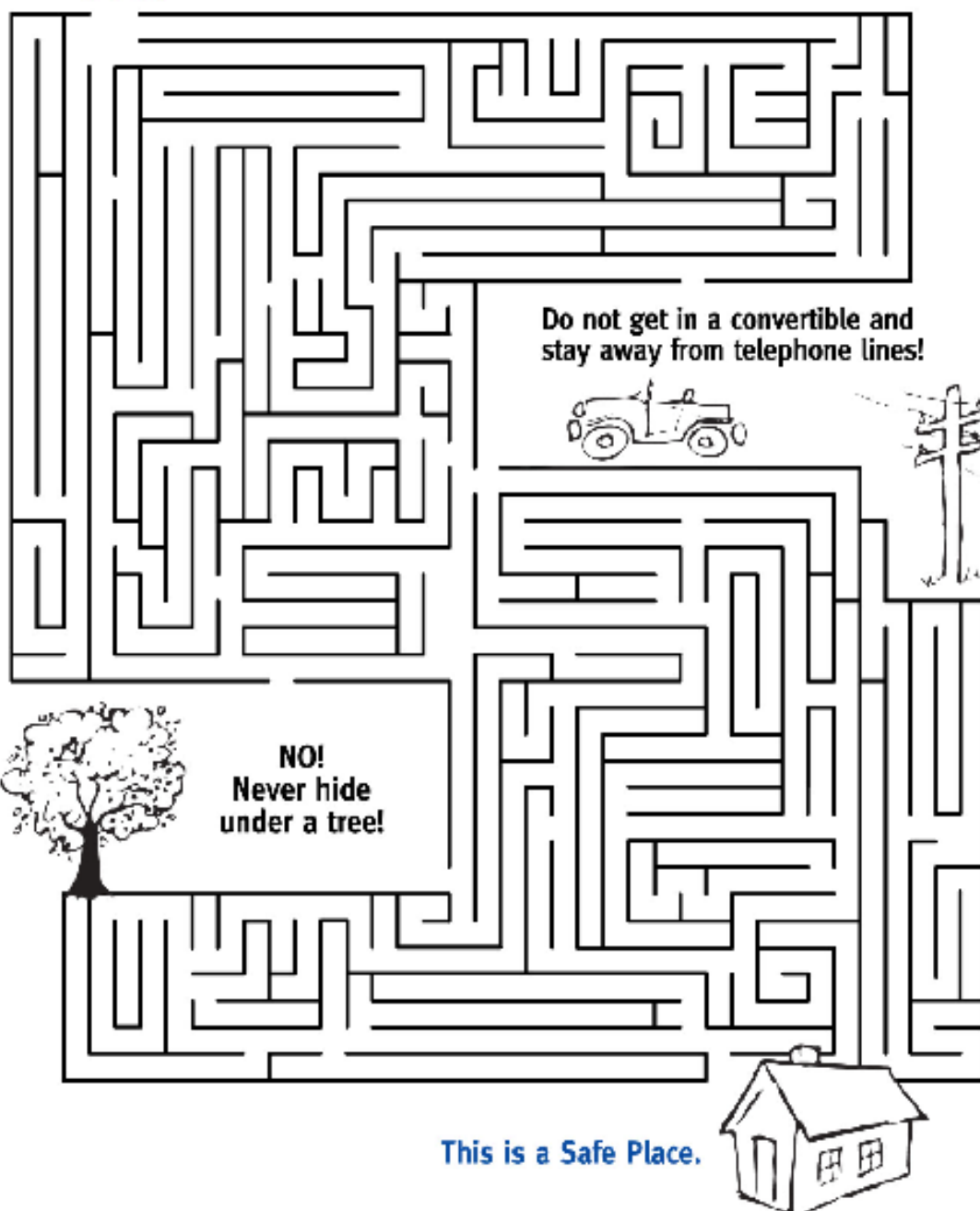
Dealing with the Media: A Short Course for Rural First Responders: December 3, 2013, 9:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m. Desoto County EOC, 830 Old Highway 51 North, Nesbit, MS. Contact: Captain Lee A. Calvi or call 662.469.8016 for more information.

WEATHER MAZE



During a thunderstorm, can you find your way to a Safe Place?

START



CERT: Community Emergency Response Team Training



Photo Caption: Shelby County Office of Preparedness CERT graduates gather on the steps of Building C, 175 Mullins Station, before heading to the fire field to learn how to use a fire extinguisher October 12, 2013.

Bottom row, left to right standing: Louis Fort, Lenora Harvey, Jimmy Tucker, Barry Mobley, Jody Cornmesser,
Second row, left to right standing: Victor Corless, John Fryman, Bridget Toolles, Leland Jones, Cheyenne Jones
Third row, left to right standing: Jo Griffith, CERT instructor, Duncan Fuller, Gail Kerr-Moore, Julie Dennis
Fourth row: Frank Moore



Photo Caption: Enthusiastic CERT students splinting “broken bones” during Medical First Aid in the classroom

Shelby County CERT Programs Contact Information:



Shelby County Office of Preparedness CERT:

1075 Mullins Station Road, Building C, Memphis, TN 38134. Classes are held on two consecutive Saturdays, 8:00 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Both days must be completed in order to graduate. Pre-registration is required.

Email Eugene Jones at: Eugene.jones@shelbycountyttn.gov.

Bartlett CERT:

5868 Stage Road, Bartlett Station Municipal Center, Bartlett, TN 38135.

Email Laura Jenkins at: ljenkins@cityofbartlett.org.

CERTPlus: Citizens For CERT:

New CERT program incorporated in Tennessee offering CERT training by all-volunteer, certified instructors.

Call Lee Race at 901.692.3889.

Collierville CERT:

1251 Peterson Lake, Collierville, TN.

Email Scott Sumner at: ssumner@ci.collierville.tn.us or call 901.457.2400.

Germantown CERT:

Fire Station #4, 3031 Forrest Hill Irene, Germantown, TN.

Email Sherry Rhea at: srhea@germantown-tn.gov.

Millington CERT:

Pat Thompson Center, 5700 Attu Street. Hosted by Emergency Management Department, Naval Support Activity Mid-South.

Visit certclass.webs.com or call 901.476.6977.

Shelby County Office of Preparedness Resources:

Shelby County Office of Preparedness: www.staysafeshelby.us, 901.515.2525

Shelby County Citizen Corp: citizencorps@shelbycountyttn.gov

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook-shelby-county-citizens-corps>

Shelby County, TN: www.shelbycountyttn.gov

Shelby County Medical Reserve Corps: www.shelbycountymrc.org

Ready Shelby: www.readyshelby.us

Shelby County Office of Preparedness Storm Shelter Registry

Email: Kimberlyn Boulter @ Kimberlyn.boulter@shelbycountyttn.gov or visit www.staysafeshelby.us

ALERT FM: www.alertfm.com

AccuWeather: www.accuweather.com

American Heart Association : www.heart.org

American Radio Relay League: www.arrl.org

Center for Disease Control: www.cdc.gov

Center for Earthquake Research and Information: CERI www.ceri.memphis.edu

Citizen Corps: www.citizencorps.org

Connect with Weather: www.connectwithweather.com

Delta Club: www.deltaclub.org

Department of Homeland Security: www.dhs.gov

Disability Preparedness: www.disability.gov/emergency-preparedness

Disaster Assistance: www.disasterassistance.gov, 1.800.621.FEMA / TTY 1.800.462.7585

Disaster Recovery Centers: text DRC plus zip code to 43362

Do1thing: www.do1thing.com

Drop Box: www.dropbox.com

Emergency Management Institute: www.training.fema.gov/EMI, 301.447.1000

Emergency 2.0: www.emergency202wiki.org

Federal Drug Administration: www.fda.gov

Federal Emergency Management Administration: www.fema.gov, 1.800.621.3362

FEMA Text messages: text PREPARE 43362 (4FEMA)

FEMA Independent Study Program, 301.447.1200

Fire Museum of Memphis: www.firemuseum.com

Google Maps: www.googlemaps.com

Humane Society of Memphis and Shelby County: www.memphishumane.org

International Association of Emergency Planners: www.iaem.com

Lightning Safety: www.lightningsafety.noaa.gov

MapQuest: www.mapquest.com

Memphis Light, Gas and Water: www.mlgw.com, 901.544.6549, Outages: 901.544.6500

National Flood Insurance Program: www.floodsmart.gov

National Fire Protection Association: www.NFPA.org

National Hurricane Center: www.nhc.noaa.gov

National Safety Council: www.nsc.org

National Weather Service: www.weather.gov

National Weather Service in Memphis, 901.544.0399

Next of Kin Registry: www.nokr.org

Occupational Safety and Hazards Administration: www.osha.gov

Ready America: www.ready.gov

Ready Business: www.ready.gov/business

Ready Kids: www.ready.gov/kids

Ready Tennessee: www.tn.gov/homelandsecurity/getready.shtml

Road Conditions: Tennessee: 1.877.244.0065
Mississippi: 1.888.728.4218
Arkansas: 1.800.245.1672

Salvation Army: www.salvationarmyusa.org

Severe Weather: www.ready.gov/severe-weather

Shelby Cares (faith-based sheltering initiative). Email Terry Donald @
Terry.Donald@shelbycountyttn.gov

Shelters, text SHELTER and your zip code to 43362

Sparky the Fire Dog: www.sparky.org

Storm Ready Program: www.stormready.noaa.gov

Tennessee: www.tennessee.gov

Tennessee Department of Transportation: www.tdot.state.tn.us

Tennessee Emergency Management Agency: www.tema.gov

United States Fire Administration: www.usfa.fema.gov

United States Geological Society: www.usgs.gov

Weather Bug: www.weatherbug.com

Weather Channel: www.weather.com

Wunderground: www.wunderground.com

EMERGENCY: call 911

Shelby County Office of Preparedness HLS / EMA

Bob Nations, Jr., Director

1075 Mullins Station Rd

Memphis TN 38134

901.515.2525

www.staysafeshelby.us

- Know Your Risks
- Get a Kit
- Make a Plan
- Stay Informed
- Be a Buddy

The Shelby County Office of Preparedness' mission is to provide administrative assistance to address the unique planning, equipment, training, and exercise needs of Shelby County and the UASI region. The Office of Preparedness assists the partnering jurisdictions in building an enhanced and sustainable capacity to prevent, protect, respond to and recover from all-hazards and threats. These threats and eventualities can be natural or man-made. The Office of Preparedness has a two-fold mission: grants and program administration. Within the scope of these missions, the Office of Preparedness integrates into the comprehensive public safety environment within Shelby County and the UASI Region. The TN Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) includes: in Tennessee, Shelby County, City of Memphis, City of Bartlett, City of Millington, City of Germantown, Town of Arlington, City of Lakeland, Town of Collierville, Tipton County, Fayette County, Lauderdale County; in Arkansas, Crittenden County and in Mississippi, Desoto County.